

REMARKS BY U.S. CHARGE D’AFFAIRES MARGARET B. DIOP
2014 ALOA SIGNING CEREMONY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORT OF SPAIN
JUNE 27, 2014

Honorable Minister Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Margaret Parillon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Other representatives of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Distinguished members of the press,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to join you today in signing the Third Amendment to the Letter of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the United States which serves to increase cooperative opportunities between our two nations.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is a strong partner of the United States on security matters, including the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

Together we are developing a set of cooperative programs aimed at increasing citizen security in the areas of juvenile justice, youth development, counter-narcotics, military and police professionalization, drug demand reduction, and financial crimes investigations.

The goal of these programs is to strengthen the capacity of Trinidad and Tobago’s national resources to improve security, promote social justice, and counter the efforts of local and international criminal organizations.

The United States has provided more than 263 million US dollars in funding to the CBSI in its first four years to support regional programs that benefit Trinidad and Tobago and its Caribbean neighbours in many areas, including law enforcement information sharing, counterterrorism, and maritime cooperation.

Building on the near 3.5 million U.S. dollars in direct, bilateral assistance for counter narcotics and law enforcement matters, the U.S. is proud to provide an additional 1.8 million U.S. dollars to help Trinidad and Tobago create a safer society.

With this money we will continue to work with government and civil society representatives to develop and expand programs for the training, education, and capacity building of all entities involved in the fight against crime.

We look forward to working with you and all our local counterparts to create a stronger, more prosperous Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you.